

ESSEX. ff.



Ad generalem Sessionem Pacis Domini Regis tent. apud Chelmsford in Comitatu predicto die Iovis prox. post Festum S. Michaelis Arch. anno regni Regis IACOBI Angliae &c. Vicefimo primo 1623. coram Roberto Comiti warwic, Willm. Dom. Petre, Willm. Dom. Maynard, Francisco Barrington Mil. & Baronetto, Harbottello Grimston Mil. & Bar. Willm. Masham Bar. Iohanni Deane mil. Thoma Cheek mil. Willm. Herris mil. Henrico Maxey mil. Nicolao Coote mil. Thoma Wiseman mil. Willm. Fitch mil. Arthuro Herris mil. Thoma Gardiner mil. Edw. Boteler mil. Henrico Mildemay de Graces mil. Roberto Clerke mil. Andreæ Paschall mil. Roberto Quarles mil. Willm. Towse Seruien. ad Legem, Roberto Willan sacred Theologie Doctori, Thoma Fanshaw, Henrico Gent, Iohanni Wright, Briano Take, Francisco Bernard, Iohanni Tanfield, Arthuro Iarvis, Roberto Wiseman, Iohanni Littury, Roberto Sandford Armigeris, & alijs Socijs suis Iusticiarijs dicti Dem. Regis ad Pacem in Com. predicto conservand. nec non ad diuersa felonias transgress. & alia malefacta in eodem Com. audiend. & terminand assign. &c.



HIS Maiesties Iustices of Peace of this Countie at this Quarter Sessions assembled, taking into their consideration the continuance of certaine Orders and directions conceived in this Court, to be observed the last yeare by all Constables and their Officers through this whole Countie, concerning the execution of the Lawes and Statutes against Rogues and Vagabonds, and also concerning the monethly meetings agreed to be held by the Iustices of Peace in their severall Divisions, for the better examination and finding out of the neglect and carelesnes of such Officers, and the reformation of those and other abuses and disorders in the Country, which cannot so conveniently be done and performed at the generall Assemblies of the whole body of the Countie. And finding now that the Constables and other Officers who are to punish and convey such Rogues, Vagabonds, and common Beggars as are apprehended, doe (for the most part) passe them away without any punishment at all, neuer questioning the counterfeite Passports, but on the contrary doe relieue and comfort them by giuing them money at euery Parish they are to passe through, by meanes whereof they begin to increase againe. Therefore it is now agreed, thought fit and ordered by this Court, that from henceforth there shalbe a meeting of the Iustices of Peace (or the more part of them) in euery severall Division or Hundred of this Countie once at the least betwene euery generall Quarter Sessions, (which may be called a six weekes Sessions) at which meetings all high and petie Constables, Ouerseers of the poore, Surueyors of high-ways, and other Officers and Inhabitants thereunto appointed, shall giue their attendance vpon the said Iustices from time to time, to be charged and examined, and to giue an account of the carefull, reall, and exact performance of their severall offices and duties in generall, and more especially touching and concerning these Articles hereunder following.

First. That choise being made of discreet and sufficient persons (and not of the meaner sort, as of late is too frequent) to be sworne Constables, that the Lawes and Statutes against Rogues, Vagabonds, and other dangerous wandring persons be more carefully put in execution by the said Constables; For the better effecting whereof it is thought fit that in euery Parish a Whipping-stocke be presently provided at the charge of the Parish: and that watchings, wardings, and priuate searches be kept and made in euery Parish once or twice euery weeke at the least, for apprehending of all Rogues, Vagabonds, or common Beggars, and that all Inhabitants also doe stay euery such Rogue or common Begger that shall come to their doores or within their sight, vpon paine of x s. for euery default, and to deliuer him ouer into the custodie of the Constables, according to the Statute in that case provided.

Secondly, That all such Rogues and Vagabonds so apprehended, be immediately carried before some Iustice of Peace of this Countie next to the place of their apprehension, by him to be sent to the House of correction, (if he shall thinke it expedient) where the allowance of three pence a mile shall be made to the Constable for the bringing of euery such Rogue, or otherwise to be severely whipped and conveyed by Passport and able guide, and in no other maner, from one Parish to another the most direct way to the place of their birth or last habitation, as the case shall require: and that no Constable in sending of any such Rogue or common Begger shall giue him any money, but onely so much sustenance in bread and drinke as may suffice nature and no more; And further for the discouery of many false Passports, (which are now most common) it is thought fit that no person pretending himselfe to be a Souldier or Mariner, shall be suffered to trauell or passe (though he haue a Passport) vnlesse the same Passport be first allowed and subscribed with the hand of some Iustice of Peace of this Countie, limiting a certaine time for his or their passage and trauell through this Countie.

Thirdly, Whereas it hath bene discovered that diuers Cripples and other diseased impotent persons, haue vsed to trauell out of one Countie into another vpon vaine and idle pretents of getting reliefe from their friends far remote, or at the place of their birth, and thereupon procured Passports, by vertue whereof they haue bene carried in Carts or on Horse-backe, and exacted money of euery Constable for their meanes and speedy trauell ouer most parts of England at the Counties charge: which Passport is against the Law, and ought to be made but in case where either the parties are punished according to the Statute as Rogues, or otherwise where any such diseased and impotent people trauell for succour and reliefe to the Bath, or one of the Hospiralls: in which case their charges in trauell ought to be borne by themselves, or by the inhabitants of the Parish from whence they come, and that the Law inforceth not the Countrey to convey any persons whatsoever which should be chargeable for the prouision of Cart or Horse, and payment of money. It is therefore ordered by this Court, that the Constables shall not hereafter receiue or convey any such Cripple, diseased or impotent man or woman so brought vnto them as aforesaid, and that if in case the bringer of any such Cripple or impotent person shall attempt to leaue them vpon any Parish, (as the maner often is) that then such bringer be presently carried before some Iustice of Peace of this Countie next to that place, to be proceeded against as a disturber of the execution, as the aforesaid Statutes made against Rogues and Vagabonds.

Fourthly, Whereas commandement is giuen to the Clarke of the Peace at this present Quarter Sessions, to send vnto the Iustices of Peace in euery Division a Transcript of the names and dwelling places of all such persons as are or shall be indited or presented, either for keeping a Ale-house without Lycenses, or for suffering ill rule or disorder in Inne or Ale-house, or against any common Drunkard or Ale-house haunter, to be bound ouer by the said Iustices to appeere at the generall Sessions of the Peace then next ensuing: It is agreed that all such persons whose names shall be so sent as aforesaid, shall be conuented at these meetings, and there to be bound ouer accordingly. And it is further ordered by this Court, that the Iustices of Peace at these meetings shall strictly examine the Constables, Ouerseers of the poore, Surueyors of high-ways, and all other Officers and persons whom it concernes, touching all disorders in Innes and Ale-houses, the setting on worke and releuing of their poore, the amendement of high-ways, and cropping of trees, and scouring of ditches which doe annoy the same: and also what Loyterers, Masterlesse persons, and others refusing to serue or worke for reasonable wages: what Shooters in Hand-guns, Tracers of Hares, and destroyers of the games of Pheasants and Partridge: and what other persons vsing deceit in Trade or Manufacture tending to the defrauding or wronging of any of his Maiesties Subiects, there be in any Parish or Hamlet within their severall lymits.

Lastly, It is ordered by this Court that euery person and persons transgressing or offending in any Artickle or thing aboue mentioned, shall be warned by the Constables of euery Parish and Hamlet to appeare personally before the Iustices of Peace at these meetings, where the said Constable, together with the Ouerseers of the poore, Surueyors of the high-ways, Headboroughes, & others whom it concerneth, shall make presentment in writing of the names and dwelling places of all the said offenders at their perills: and that the Iustices of Peace in euery severall Division or Hundred, doe make certifiat in writing of their doings at euery generall Quarter Sessions following.

Per Curiam.

*Concordat cum Originali, & examinatur per
E. Eldred Clericum Pacis, Com predict.*